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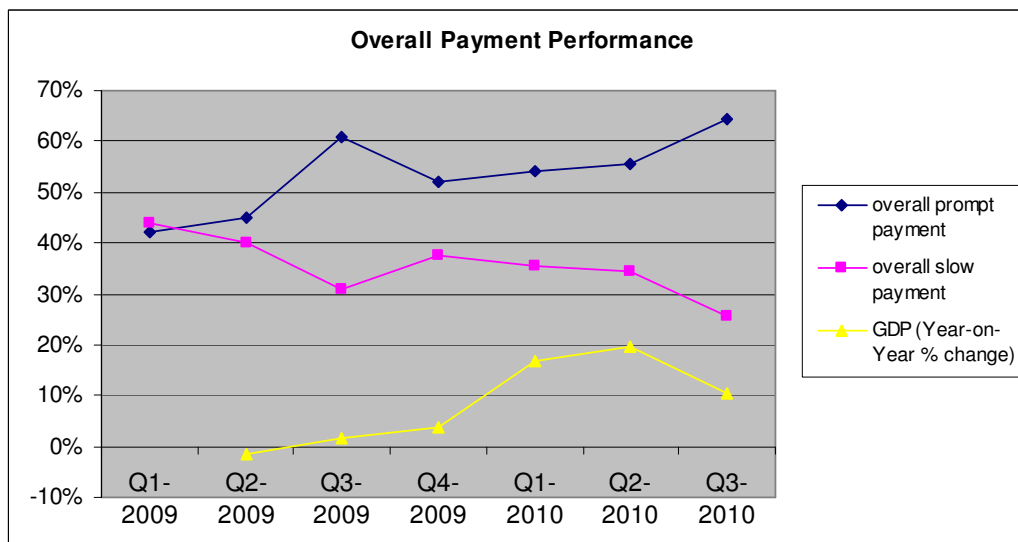
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Resilient Q3 payment performance bolsters market confidence to meet annualised expectations

Singapore, 9 November 2010 – Q3 payment performance of local companies maintain modestly bullish across the board despite a contracting economy, strengthening the market's position to meet its annualised growth expectation. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) reported last month that the Singapore economy remains on track to achieve overall growth forecast of 13 to 15 per cent for the whole of 2010.

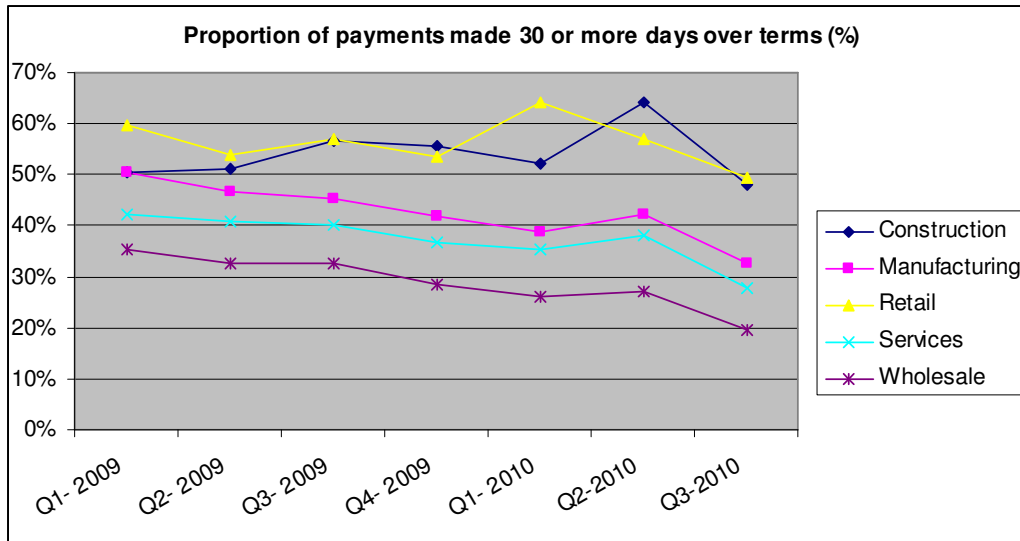
Singapore Payment Performance



Overall payment performance observed an increase in prompt payment made by all sectors in the third quarter, up 9 percentage points over the previous quarter and 3.4 percentage points year on year. Payment delays across all major industries also marked a drop of 8.8 percentage points over the previous quarter, and 5.3 percentage points year on year.



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Despite growth contractions experienced particularly by the construction and manufacturing sectors, payment performances continue to run conversely to their market performance.

Quarter on quarter comparison across industries singled out the construction sector to have the most improved payment performance. The proportion of construction firms that registered slow payment was 48.1%, down 15.9 percentage points from the previous quarter.

“With the boost in projects received by the construction sector this year, JP Nelson has been playing a crucial role in supporting them and we have also been experiencing more frequent, prompt and full progress payments from these firms for work done. We believe in maintaining an efficient cash flow management in establishing trusted partnerships for our business growth,” commented Mr Joseph Ong, JP Nelson’s Marketing Manager.

The manufacturing sector also continues to register one of the largest declines in slow payment with 32.6% in Q3, down 12.7 percentage points year on year. Proprietary trade data for the first two months in Q3 2010 indicated that exports to Singapore’s ten largest export markets were up strongly year on year, with manufacturing output rising. “Given a supportive trade and commercial environment and a high degree of resilience to the markets’ ongoing stagnation, most local business receipts are expected to remain healthy as we advance into the next quarter,” commented Ms Audrey Chia, Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau’s Senior Product Development and Marketing Director.

Commentary

D&B Singapore compiles the figures by monitoring more than 1.5 million payment transactions of firms operating through its Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau (SCCB). Payment data is contributed to the Bureau by local firms. Prompt payment is classified as when at least 90% of total bills are paid within the agreed payment terms while slow payment is classified as when more than 50% of total bills are paid later than the agreed credit terms.

About Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau

Established in 2005, Singapore Commercial Credit Bureau (SCCB) operates a database of local enterprises and their credit history to provide clients with the insight needed to build trust and improve the quality of business relationships with their customers, suppliers and business partners. SCCB operates under D&B Singapore.

About D&B

D&B is the world's leading provider of business-to-business credit, marketing and purchasing information and receivables management services. D&B manages the world's most valuable commercial database with information on more than 145 million companies. D&B has a database of 100 million tradelines on a global basis and 26 million within the Asia Pacific region.

Information is gathered in over 200 countries, in 95 languages or dialects, covering 186 monetary currencies. The database is refreshed more than one million times daily as part of D&B's commitment to provide accurate, comprehensive information for its customers around the world.

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